

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN

SUBJECT:NOON PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 8

1. THE FOLLOUING IS THE TEXT FROM THE NOON PRESS BRIEFING
JUNE 8 CONCERNING PANAMA.

2. BEGIN QUOTE Q: HODDING, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE
ANY OFFICIAL PANAMANIAN DOCUMENT WHICH IN ANY WAY MODIFIES
THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S APRIL 25 COMMUNIQUE
REPUDIATED THE DECONCINI, NUNN HOLLINGS, HEINZ, BELLMAN,
BROOKE AND CANNON RESERVATIONS?

A: THAT'S NOT THE INTERPRETATION WE PUT ON THAT COMMUNIQUE
OF APRIL 25.

Q: NO. I REALIZE YOUR INTERPRETATION, BUT WHAT I'D LIKE
TO KNOU IS: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT WOULD IN ANY WAY
MODIFY OR QUALIFY THIS COMMUNIQUE OF THE 25TH? YOU DON'T
HAVE ANYTHING?

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A: I'M TELLING YOU THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE EXISTS
A SIGNIFICANT MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF PANAMA AS TO
THE MEANING OF THE SENATE'S ACTIONS. WE DO NOT CONSIDER

IT A REPUDIATION OR A REJECTION OF THE SENATE RESOLUTIONS
OF RATIFICATION.

Q: O.K. IF PRESIDENT CARTER EXCHANGES INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION WITH GENERAL TORRIJOS ON THE 16TH WITHOUT ANY PANAMANIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THESE SENATE RESERVATIONS, WON'T THE TREATIES BE IN FORCE WITH THE SENATE RESERVATIONS DISCARDED OR NOT RECOGNIZED BY PANAMA?

A: THE TEXTS OF THE AMENDMENTS, RESERVATIONS, AND SO FORTH, ARE PERFECTLY CLEAR AND PANAMA WILL EXPLICITLY ACCEPT THESE TEXTS --

Q: OH. HAVE THEY IN WRITING?

A: -- AS LEGALLY BINDING AT THE TIME OF EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION AT THE TIME OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO PANAMA.

Q: RIGHT. NOW, YOU HAVE SEEN THAT IN WRITING, THAT PANAMA --

A: I'M TELLING YOU THE TEXT IS CLEAR. THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE INSTRUMENTS IS AN EXPLICIT ACCEPTANCE OF THE LANGUAGE-- WHICH IS CLEAR --

Q: WHERE?

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A: -- INCLUDING ALL RESERVATIONS.

Q: WHERE IS THAT, HODDING?

A: IT IS IN THE INSTRUMENT.

Q: BECAUSE WE GOT THIS IN WRITING, THE STATEMENTS ON ALL OF THESE, FROM THE PANAMANIAN COMMUNIQUE OF APRIL 25.

NOW, DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER DOCUMENT WHERE PANAMA SAYS WE ACCEPT THE DECONCINI RESERVATION? DO YOU HAVE ANY SUCH DOCUMENT OR IS THERE ONE GOING TO BE PRESENTED ON JUNE 16 OR NOT?

A: MY FRIEND, WHAT IS GOING TO BE PRESENTED IS A FULL BODY OF WHAT WAS DONE BY THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IS VERY CLEAR. AND IN ACCEPTING IT, THAT IS EXPLICITLY ACCEPTING THE LANGUAGE WHICH IS IN IT.

Q: THEY WHY DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THAT THEY REPUDIATED THESE RESERVATIONS?

A: WE DON'T.

Q: YOU DON'T?

A: WE DO NOT LOOK AT THE COMMUNIQUE AS EITHER A REPUDIATION OR A REJECTION.

Q: HODDING, ON THAT POINT, IF THEY SAY THAT THE RESERVATIONS DON'T CHANGE THE TREATY AND THE SENATORS WHO INTRODUCED THOSE RESERVATIONS AND WHO VOTED FOR THEM THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE SIGNIFICANT, THIS WAS NOT JUST, YOU KNOW, PRO FORMA --

A: YOU UNDERSTAND WE HAD DIFFERENCES ALL ALONG AS TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEED FOR LANGUAGE TO MAKE EXPLICIT WHAT WE FELT WAS EXPLICIT. IT IS NOT PLAYING WITH WORDS. IT IS A RESTATEMENT OF POSITION. THE LANGUAGE OF THE TREATY, WE FELT, AS DID PANAMA, WAS SPECIFIC ENOUGH, BUT THAT IF THE AMENDMENTS WERE FELT NECESSARY TO MAKE IT MORE SPECIFIC AND CLEAR FOR THOSE PROponents, THEN THAT IS WHAT THE SENATE DID. AND THEY ARE ACCEPTED BY PANAMA; THEY HAVE BEEN. THEY WILL BE ACCEPTED WHEN THE BODY OF THAT TREATY AND THE ACCOMPANYING BODY IS ACCEPTED BY PANAMA.

Q: IN EFFECT YOU ARE SAYING THAT YOU AGREE WITH PANAMA THAT THESE RESERVATIONS MADE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE TREATY?

A: WE ARE SAYING THAT WE ALWAYS FELT THAT THE TREATY WAS SPECIFIC. THE RESERVATIONS WERE VOTED UPON, ACCEPTED. THEY ARE IN THERE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TREATY IS CLEAR WITH THEM. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MAIN POINTS OF CONCERN WERE CLEAR. IN ANY CASE, THE TREATY IS EXPLICIT NOW WITH THE RESERVATIONS AND THAT IS WHAT WILL BE ACCEPTED BY PANAMA.

Q: COULD I PIN YOU DOWN A LITTLE BIT ON THAT, HODDING? ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE DECONCINI RESERVATION, THE NUNN RESERVATION, MADE NO SIGNIFICANT, NO MEANINGFUL CHANGE IN THE INTERPRETATION OF THE TREATY?

A: I AM SAYING THAT A POSITION OF THIS ADMINISTRATION WAS THAT WE DID NOT NEED THEM. THE SENATE FELT OTHERWISE; THEY ADDED THEM. THEY ARE NOW PART OF THAT TREATY. THEY ARE CLEAR. THE TREATY WITH THEM IS CLEAR. THAT WILL BE

ACCEPTED BY PANAMA, AND IN ACCEPTING IT, THEY WILL BE EX-UNCLASSIFIED

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PLICITLY ACCEPTING THE LANGUAGE AND WHAT IS IN THE TREATY
AND THE RESERVATION.

Q: THAT IS NOT WHAT THEY SAY, HODDING, IN THIS COMMUNIQUE.

A: I AM GOING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING. I AM GOING TO CUT
THIS OFF. I HAVE SAID WE DO NOT REGARD IT AS A REPUDIATION,
AND WE DO NOT REGARD IT AS A REJECTION. I AM TELLING YOU
WHEN WE GIVE IT, THESE INSTRUMENTS ON JUNE 16 AND 17, THEY
WILL BE EXPLICITLY ACCEPTED AND THAT IS WHAT I SAY. WHEN
IT HAPPENS AT THE TIME, IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE IT, THEN YOU
CAN COME BACK AND ASK ME.

Q: THE PANAMANIAN HAVE STATED AND YOU HAVE ALREADY TOLD
US THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN WRITING TO THE CONTRARY. THEY
HAVE STATED A THEORY OF THE FACT THAT THE DECONCINI AMEND-
MENTS MEANS SUCH AND SUCH, THAT IT REALLY DOESN'T ALTER IT.
THAT IS THEIR THEORY. THE SENATE APPARENTLY DISAGREE BE-
CAUSE THERE WAS AN OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF THE DECONCINI
AMENDMENT WHICH WAS VERY CONTROVERSIAL AND WHICH IS DENOUNCED
STRONGLY BY PANAMA IN THIS COMMUNIQUE. THERE HAS BEEN
NOTHING SINCE THAT COMMUNIQUE IN WRITING FROM PANAMA TO
INDICATE THAT THEY HAVE ANY --

A: LES, BESIDES YOUR SPEECH, THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION
WAS NO. NEXT QUESTION. VANCE

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